d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) No Sir.

(b) to (d) Does not arise in view of reply to part (a) above.

Coal gasification project by BHEL

373. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI HARISH RAWAT:

Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) Whether BHEL propose to set up 400 MW power plant based on coal gasification;

(b) if so, whether BHEL have requisite experience for building up such a power plant based on Integrated Gasification Combined Cycle (IGCC) technology;

(c) whether it is a fact that BHEL and NTPC have not been able to solve the differences on technical issues on 125 MW IGCC project; and

(d) by when the 125 MW project is likely to commence?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEAVY INDUSTRY, MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) No Sir. At present there is no such proposal.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) and (d) The Principal Scientific Advisor to the Government of India had set up a National R&D Committee in 2003. As per the advice of the National R&D Committee, BHEL and NTPC have jointly prepared a Detailed Project Report (DPR). BHEL Board has agreed with the approach indicated in DPR and has forwarded it to NTPC for necessary action at their end.

Appointment of independent directors in BHEL

374. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE:
SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN:

Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn by various trade unions including President of the Centre of Indian Trade Unions (CITU) regarding appointment of independent directors in BHEL;

(b) whether someone from ZARDA (Chewing Tobacco) industry and another having links with a competitor of BHEL are functioning as independent director of BHEL;

(c) if so, the details of the professional backgrounds of independent directors in BHEL board; and

(d) the basis of selecting independent directors in PSEs to ensure that there is no conflict of interests?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) to (d) From time to time references have been received regarding appointment of independent directors to the Boards of various PSEs including BHEL. Independent Directors are selected by the administrative ministries on the recommendations of the Search Committee under the Department of Public Enterprises. Names of the identified candidates by the Search Committee are sent to the respective PSEs for ascertaining if there is any conflict of interest. Only after receipt of "No Objection" from PSEs, the administrative ministries seek the approval of Appointments Committee of Cabinet.

Shri Ashok K. Aggarwal, who was appointed as independent director of BHEL with effect from 16-11-2005 for a period of 3 years, also happens to be Managing Director of a Tobacco Manufacturing Company. He has requisite qualification and experience (B.A., L.L.B.; PGDPM & IR; Dip. Labour Law and Member of FICCI, PHDCCI & FII) as necessary for an independent director. He has rich experience of 28 years of working in senior positions in Public and Private Corporate Sector.

No independent director on the Board of BHEL is presently having any direct links with a competitor of BHEL as per records available with the Company. The names of independent directors of BHEL and their qualifications are as follow:

1. Shri Sanjay M. Dadlika	:	B.Com, Social Worker
2. Shri Shekhar Datta	:	B.E.(Mechanical Engineering), FIMA & Ex-President CII 3.
3. Shri Manish Gupta	:	IAS (Retd.), Ex-Chief Secretary, Govt. of West Bengal, B.Sc., Certificate in Field Engineering (Civil, Mechanics & Electrical), Post Graduate Certificate in Business Management
4. Shri A.K. Aggarwal	:	B.A., L.L.B, PGDPM&IR, Diploma in Labour Law, M.D. Gopal Group.
5. Shri Madhukar	:	M.A.(Eco.), L.L.B., Ex-CMD UBI, & Ex-Member SEBI

Technology for enhancing production from ONGC's ageing oil wells

375. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATRUAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are negotiating for getting technology for improving production from ONGC's ageing oil wells;

(b) if so, whether Government would ensure that only established technology is taken as normally foreign companies try to pass on either obsolete or innovative technology; and